36. Revenue and Criminal Jurisdiction in Nanjinad.

MR. V. S. RAMASWAMI (*Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) complained that the location of the Division Assistant's office at Padmanabhapuram entailed great hardship on the merchants of Kottar and Nagercoil who had to produce their account books before him in income tax cases in respect of incomes between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 10,000. Nagercoil was a thickly populated town. The Irrigation Board met at Nagercoil. The grievances of the people in revenue and irrigation matters could be more easily remedied if Nagercoil was made the headquarters of the Division Assistant. A Magistrate with first class powers should be at Nagercoil, which was only ten miles from the frontier where dacoities were common. The large number of motor vehicles plying to and from Nagercoil also made the appointment of a First Class Magistrate necessary. The absence of such an office at Nagercoil was felt even in connection with municipal administration.

The demand notices and tax receipts issued, and the registers, etc., maintained by the Land Revenue Department should be printed in Tamil also, as the local people could not understand Malayalam.

The selection of members of the Village Panchayat Courts and Bench Magistrates' Courts should be made in consultation with a non-official committee.

There was a plethora of young men who had passed the School Final and Intermediate Examinations seeking Government service, and it would be desirable to recruit *Proverticars*, etc., from such educated men.

DEWAN: The first subject relates to the transfer of the headquarters of the local Division Assistant from Padmanabhapuram to Nagercoil. There will not be enough work for two Assistants, one at Padmanabhapuram and another at Nagercoil. The transfer of the present Assistant at Padmanabhapuram can be more advantageously considered in connection with the separation of the judicial and executive functions. This scheme is now under consideration, and when it comes into effect, there will be one Division Assistant for magisterial work and another for revenue work. At that time, your proposal will also be taken up for consideration.

Then you said that demand notices and tax receipts should be issued in Tamil. The State Language is Malayalam and all these notices and forms have to be printed in Malayalam.

The member said that, even in the *Civil Courts' Guide*, it was stated that the Court language is Tamil as well as Malayalam.

DEWAN. Then Tamil and Malayalam should both be used in the same form. The matter will be enquired into to see whether it is possible to have the forms printed in diglott.

Then you wanted that, for the post of *Proverticars*, qualified men such as those who had passed the School Final or the Intermediate Examination, should alone be selected. This will be referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner and his report will be considered.

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37. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. P. NARAYANA BHATTATIRI (*Member, Jenmies, Quilon Division*) brought forward the following suggestions for the reform and reconstitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

(i) Manhood suffrage should be granted.

(ii) Members should submit written representations.

(iii) Replies to representations should invariably be given before the next session of the Assembly.

(iv) When the officers of the Government differed from the opinions expressed in the representations, opportunities should be provided for a further discussion between them.

(v) The opening address of the Dewan should contain a statement of the action taken on the representations at the previous session.

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(vi) Greater facilities should be afforded to the members. Copies of the Legislative Council Proceedings, the *Gazette*, and other Government publications should also be supplied free to the members of the Assembly.

(vii) Mistakes should be avoided in the translation of representations. It would be better to record the representations of members ignorant of English in the Vernacular.

(viii) All Government publications should immediately be translated into the Vernacular and issued.

(ix) Hindu members of the Assembly and particularly those who had established temples should be allowed to make representations on the administration of Devaswoms.

(x) The Assembly should hold two sessions in the year and discuss the budget at the Mithunam meeting and the Administration Report at the Tulam meeting.

DEWAN. What the member first wants is that every adult male and female should have a vote. I suppose adult suffrage is a matter which will come in the fulness of time.

The member thinks that all members of the Assembly should submit written representations. That is a matter for the members to adopt or not, and not for the Government to insist upon.

The member wishes that Government should make it a point to reply to all the representations within an year. As for that matter, I make it a point to give replies to all representations then and there as far as possible. The replies to the remaining representations will be disposed of as speedily as possible : and the representations now seldom, if ever, take one year for disposal.

The member wants that the *Gazette* and other publications should be issued in Malayalam and supplied to the members of the Assembly in addition to the Administration Report and some other publications supplied to them. That will be considered.

The member next urges that the administration of the Devaswoms should be included among the subjects that can be discussed in the Assembly. That is a matter which will be considered at the time of the revision of the Assembly Rules. He advocates that there should be two meetings of the Assembly every year, at one of which it should discuss the budget and at the other the Administration Report. Now, the Assembly considers and discusses the Administration Report along with other matters. As for a separate meeting for considering the budget, that again is a matter which will have to be considered when the Assembly Rules are revised.

MR. S. A. HARIHARAKRISHNA AIYAR (*Member, Shencottah taluk*) : Sir, on behalf of the members of the S. M. P. Assembly, I beg leave to convey to you our heartfelt thanks for the eagerness with which you have listened to our representations and the promptness with which you have replied to them. This popular institution has now completed the twenty-first year of its existence. During the last two decades, it was fostered with kindness and sympathy by His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja Sri Mulam Tirunal with whose holy name it is fittingly associated. We, the members of the Assembly, and the people whom we represent, feel much consoled at the promising features of His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja Chithira Tirunal whose good qualities of head and heart qualify His Highness to be a worthy successor of His Highness' great-grand-uncle at whose sad demise we feel greatly grieved. Sir, you have referred in your opening address to the erection of a suitable memorial in memory of His Highness the late Maha Raja, the Rajarshi. We also wish to express that this institution, so nobly started and fostered under His Highness' care, will no doubt be a lasting monument of His Highness' great and noble deeds. We humbly request that all privileges and advantages necessary for the advancement of this institution be conferred upon it and that it be made to advance on all progressive lines. We also humbly beg leave to express our fervent prayers to the Great God Almighty for the long life, health and prosperity of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and His Highness the Maha Raja. In fine, we humbly request that you will

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be kindly pleased to convey to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and to His Highness the Maha Raja our loyalty and devotion. With these words, Sir, we take leave of you.

Mr. V. S. Ramaswami (Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil), Mr. S. Krishnan Asan, (Member, Nominated), Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar, (Member, Jenmies, Trivandrum Division), Mr. Ittiyavira Chummar (Member, Nominated), and Mr. C. A. A. Meera Rowther (Member, Peermade Taluk) also thanked the Dewan on behalf of the communities to which they belonged and of the other members present at the Assembly. They also requested that their expressions of loyalty to the person and throne of the Sovereign be communicated to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and to His Highness the Maha Raja.

DEWAN: Gentlemen, I am very thankful to you, and I greatly appreciate the kind sentiments which you have expressed personally towards me. I have only done what I have considered to be my duty; and I do not think I deserve special thanks for doing my duty. But I would consider it my proud privilege to place before Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and His Highness the Maha Raja the sentiments of devotion and loyalty which you have expressed, and it will be my great pleasure to do so.

The Assembly will now dissolve.

The Assembly was then dissolved at 1-30 P. M. with three cheers to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, His Highness the Maha Raja, Her Highness the Junior Maha Rani and the Dewan.

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